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By William Chapman
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of leading political scientists was picked Wednesday to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency's penetration of the academic community, including the affairs of a Washington-based research firm that received funds from foundations used by the CIA.

The four scholars were appointed to a special panel established by Robert A. Dahl, president of the American Political Science Association, who said he is "sickened and alarmed" by news accounts of CIA activities.

The Washington firm is Operations and Policy Research, Inc., whose officers are both officials of the American Political Science Association.

They are Evron M. Kirkpatrick and Max M. Kampelman, president and vice-president respectively of the research firm, and executive director and treasurer, respectively of the Political Science Association.

Operations and Policy Research, which receives substantial grants from the U.S. Information Agency, reportedly has received funds from the Sidney and Esther Rabb Charitable Foundation and the Panos Charitable Trust, both of Boston, Mass.

Kirkpatrick has acknowledged receiving funds from the two foundations but said he knew of no programs carried out at the behest of CIA.

Named to Dahl's panel are R. Taylor Cole, provost of Duke University; Gabriel Almond, professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, and David B. Truman, dean of Columbia College, Columbia University, in New York City.

Dahl told them he was alarmed by stories saying "that the CIA has penetrated academic and cultural circles through foundations and pseudo-foundations to which they channelled funds. There are bound to be evil effects from such practices."

Even if no improper CIA influence is proved, he said, the standing of U.S. scholars, their relations with foreign colleagues, and their chances for research "will suffer grievously."